

Adolescent social media interaction and authorial stance in Indonesian teen fiction

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ABSTRACT

This article examines representations of adolescent social media interaction in two Indonesian teen novels to show how adolescent communication styles are typified. It is argued that public discourse on the potential danger of social media interaction is resounded in the novels. The article demonstrates that the authors of both novels take a similar moral stance on the issue of social media but use different rhetorical strategies for indexing that stance. Both draw on the social values of registers to communicate the stance. In *Online addicted*, standard Indonesian is used in narration to convey an authoritative voice and a stern moral tone, while the *gaul* register indexes an alignment with favourable aspects of the protagonist's character. In *Jurnal Jo online*, *gaul* is similarly given a positive value by virtue of its juxtaposition with the *Alay* register. In this novel, *gaul* is the preferred, standard register. In both novels, there is a strong orientation toward "standardness".

KEYWORDS

Adolescent fiction, social media, register, style.

1 INTRODUCTION

Indonesian adolescents, like adolescents around the world, are among the most avid users of social media. Statistics show that Indonesia is among the top five countries in the world with the highest number of Facebook users. Currently Indonesia ranks fourth after the US, India, and Brazil, in the number of users.¹ Of the overall users, 23 per cent are aged between 13-17 years, and 43 per cent are between 18-24 years. Thus young people aged between 13-

¹ This is according to 2013 data from Socialbakers (www.socialbakers.com).